

**House rent Allowance for E.P.F.O. Employees at Delhi**

state :

4328. **SHRI R. P. YADAV** : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state ;

(a) whether employees of the Employees Provident Fund Organisation are given House Rent allowance @ 20 per cent of their pay at Delhi, while other autonomous bodies like the State Trading Corporation are giving 30 per cent House Rent allowance to their employees ; and

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to extend the same rate of house rent allowance to the employees of the Employees Provident Fund Organisation ?

**THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR)** : The administration of the Employees' Provident Fund is the concern of the Central Board of Trustees set up under the Employees' Provident Funds and Family Pension Fund Act, 1952 and not the direct concern of the Government of India. The Provident Fund authorities have intimated as under :—

(a) Employees of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation are given house rent allowance @ 20% of their pay at Delhi.

(b) In pursuance of the decision of the Central Board of Trustees in whom the Fund vests, the employees of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation are governed by the scales of pay, allowance and other concessions as are applicable to the employees of the administrative offices of the Central Government from time to time. In the circumstances, the question of comparison with the bodies like the State Trading Corporation does not arise. Owing to the non-availability of the facility of Staff quarters at Delhi which facility is available by way of provision of general pool accommodation to the employees of the Central Government, the staff of the above Organisation posted at Delhi were granted an additional House Rent allowance of 5% over and above the rates of House Rent Allowance prescribed for corresponding categories employees of the Central Government.

**Land ceiling (Amendment) Act of West Bengal as Model Law for other States**

4329. **SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA** : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to

(a) whether the Land Ceiling (Amendment) Act promulgated in West Bengal during President's Rule by the Union Government is being recommended as a model to other States also ; and

(b) if so, the States reaction thereto ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM SINGH)** : (a) and (b). No specific recommendation has been made to States to treat as a model the West Bengal Land Reforms (Amendment) Act, 1971 which provides for ceiling on agricultural holdings. The West Bengal Act was amended keeping in view the policy laid down in the Five Year Plans and the suggestions made in the Chief Ministers Conferences of 1969 and 1970. All States have been advised to bring their laws in line with the national policy.

**Ragi Cultivation**

4330. **SHRI K. LAKKAPPA** : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken any step to improve the conditions of Ragi growing in several States ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard and the States growing Ragi in the country ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHER SINGH)** : (a) Yes Sir.

(a) The steps taken include improvement of Ragi by breeding new varieties suitable to different agroclimatic conditions and developing new technology for maximising production per unit area.

Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, Mysore, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh are the major Ragi growing States.

**Construction of Office Building and Staff Quarters for Regional Office of Employees Provident Fund Organisation Patna**

4331. **SHRI R. P. YADAV** : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION